

OTHER MEDICAL UNITS

and seven men, left Southampton for France on March 21st, 1915, and on the 26th found themselves located outside the Canadian area at Merville, a bright little country town lying between Aire and St. Estaire, some eight and a half miles to the south-west of Bailleul. Here they were given excellent quarters in the Hôtel de Ville, a spacious room, twenty-seven by forty-seven feet, well lighted, with seven large windows, provided with gas and water—a spacious eighteenth-century room which might have been built for laboratory purposes. From the D.M.S. 1st Army (General Macpherson) downwards, everybody helped them. The O.C. records in his War Diary: "Could not say too much for the courteous and kind way in which all the British officers have treated us." On the 30th their equipment arrived; on the 31st they were ready for work, and cerebro-spinal contacts were being attended to bacteriologically, and suspected diphtheria throats were swabbed. At first they served the 4th Army Corps and the Canadian Division; soon they were given the hygienic and bacteriological work of the 1st Army, and before the end of June that of the area north of the Aire-La Bassée Canal was turned over to them,* together with the general bacteriological work of the Indian Corps.†

Their work had a wide scope. Besides the routine work of a clinical laboratory—analyses and reports upon blood, sputa, and other body fluids, and dejecta, and examinations for the detection of causative agents of various infectious diseases—

* Circular Memorandum No. 4, D.M.S. 1st Army, of June 23rd, 1915.

† Circular Memorandum No. 1, D.M.S. 1st Army, of June 7th, 1915.